

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 183931
ORIGIN ARA-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, BL

SUBJECT: PRESS STATEMENT ON ELECTION ANNULMENT

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1. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ON BOLIVIAN ELECTIONS, DE-
PARTMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON JULY
20:

QUOTE: FOLLOWING REQUESTS BY THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES
AND CANDIDATES, THE BOLIVIAN NATIONAL ELECTORAL COURT HAS
ANNULLED THE ELECTIONS HELD ON JULY 9. WE UNDERSTAND THAT,
UNDER BOLIVIAN LAW, THE ELECTORAL COURT IS CHARGED WITH
MONITORING AND ADJUDICATING VOTING PROCESSES AND HAS FULL
POWER TO ACT AS IT DID. IN ISSUING ITS DECISION, THE
COURT ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT NEW ELECTIONS BE HELD WITHIN
180 DAYS UNDER STRENGTHENED ELECTORAL PROCEDURES. WE NOTE
THAT THE BOLIVIAN CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS PROVIDES MECHAN-
ISMS FOR DEALING WITH ALLEGATIONS OF ELECTION IRREGULARI-
TIES AND THAT THESE MECHANISMS HAVE FUNCTIONED WELLEN
UNDER THE MOST DIFFICULT OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

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2. I WOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS TRADI-
TIONALLY ENJOYED A CLOSE AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH
BOLIVIA AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING THIS HARMONIOUS
ASSOCIATION. END QUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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